

## Message Text

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13

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 DRC-01 /112 W

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R 080719Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5885

CONFIDENTIAL MANILA 9470

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, MASS, PINT, RP

SUBJECT: RELIGIOUS PRISONERS

REF: A. MANILA 9117

B. HULEN EA/PHL JULY 24 LETTER

1. FATHER ORTIZ, CHAIRMAN OF NASSA JUSTICE AND PEACE COMMITTEE, GAVE EMBASSY AUG 7 FURTHER CLARIFICATION ON RELEASE OF RELIGIOUS PRISONERS.

2. RELEASE THAT OCCURRED JULY 30 INCLUDED FOUR PROTESTANTS: REV. TIPLES, AND MR. AND MRS. SANTIAGO OF NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES, PASTOR TORIBIO CAJIVAT OF METHODIST CHURCH AND FOUR CATHOLICS: FATHER HAGAD, FORMER NUN CONSUELO LEDESMA, FORMER JESUIT HILARIO LIM AND LASALLE BROTHER SAMUEL BUESER (FILIPINO).

3. REMAINING RELIGIOUS PRISONERS UNDER DETENTION ARE PROTESTANT REV. HURPADA AND CESAR TAGUBA, SACRED HEART PRIESTS JALANDONI, TAN AND ABAO, AND ONE PRIEST, FATHER NACU, WHO HAS ESCAPED DETENTION AND IS AT LARGE. IMPRESSION WAS GIVEN THESE WERE ONLY RELIGIOUS PRISONERS REMAINING UNDER DETENTION CONDITIONS. ACCORDING TO ORTIZ, PRESIDENT HAD INTENDED RELEASE ALL RELIGIOUS PRISONERS BUT HIS ORDER HAD BEEN TRANSLATED BY GENERAL VER TO MEAN ALL EXCEPT

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THOSE CHARGED WITH POSSESSION OF FIREARMS, A CRIMINAL

CHARGE. ORTIZ IS OPTIMISTIC ALL WILL SOON BE RELEASED.

4. COMMENT: EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE TO ATTEMPT TO VERIFY RELIGIOUS PRISONER STATUS. ORTIZ HAS VERY DIRECT INTEREST IN MATTER, HOWEVER, AND HIS ASSERTION RE RELIGIOUS NUMBERS REMAINING UNDER DETENTION CAN PROBABLY BE ACCEPTED AS ROUGHLY CORRECT. IF ORTIZ'S INTERPRETATION OF PRESIDENT'S INTENT ACCURATE, GOP EVIDENTLY CARRYING OUT PRECAUTIONARY HOUSE CLEANING ON ONE SEGMENT OF POLITICAL PRISONER ISSUE TO AVOID FUTURE CRITICISM. THIS ACTION, OF COURSE, NO GUARANTEE THAT MORE CHURCH-STATE PROBLEMS WILL NOT ARISE BUT IT DOES CONSTITUTE TIMELY TACTICAL MOVE DOMESTICALLY AS WELL AS INTERNATIONALLY.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PROTESTANTS, GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, CATHOLICS, POLITICAL PRISONERS, CLERGYMEN, PRISONERS RELEASE, ARMS CACHES  
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**Draft Date:** 08 AUG 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** cunninfx  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Subject:** RELIGIOUS PRISONERS  
**TAGS:** EAID, MASS, PINT, RP, (LEDESMA, CONSUELO KALAW), (HAGAD)  
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**Type:** TE  
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